

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~striketrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

1. (currently amended) An E-mail management system for managing a forward destination of an E-mail, the E-mail management system including a processor, the processor comprising programmed to execute:  
~~an accept unit~~ accepting a setting request of a forward destination address corresponding to a receipt address of ~~the an~~ E-mail addressed to the receipt address and the E-mail being to be forwarded to the forward destination address; and  
~~a confirming unit~~ executing a confirmation of a validity of the forward destination address to which the E-mail addressed to the receipt address is forwarded, by sending a test mail to the forward destination address and receiving a response to the test mail,  
wherein said confirmation includes confirming whether the response contains a predetermined data string or not.
2. (cancelled)
3. (currently amended) An E-mail management system according to claim 1, the processor further comprising programmed to execute: ~~a communication unit communicating with a sending device sending a test mail to the forward destination and a receiving device receiving a response to the test mail,~~  
~~wherein said confirming unit commands said sending device to send the test mail via said communication unit and confirms the response received by said receiving device via said communication unit~~ commanding a sending device to send a test mail to the forward destination address; and  
communicating with a receiving device to receive a response to the test mail,  
wherein said confirmation includes confirming the validity of the forward destination

address by the response received by said receiving device.

4. (currently amended) An E-mail management system according to claim 1, the processor further ~~comprising~~programmed to execute:

~~a forward destination registering unit~~ registering the forward destination address corresponding to the receipt address if the confirmation proved successful; and

~~a forward control unit~~ forwarding ~~the~~ received E-mail addressed to the receipt address to the forward destination address;

~~wherein said forward control unit, where~~when the forward destination address corresponding to the receipt address is registered ~~in said forward destination registering unit,~~ forwards the received E-mail addressed to this receipt address to the forward destination address.

5. (currently amended) An E-mail management system according to claim 1, the processor further ~~comprising a communication unit~~ configured to communicateing with a mail server which registers the forward destination address corresponding to the receipt address of the E-mail, and forwards ~~the~~ received E-mail addressed to this receipt address to the forward destination address,

~~Wherein said confirming unit commands,~~said mail server is commanded to register the forward destination address if the confirmation proved successful, ~~said mail server to register the forward destination address corresponding to the receipt address via said communication unit.~~

6. (currently amended) An E-mail management system according to claim 2, wherein said ~~confirming~~confirmation unit~~includes~~ confirms~~confirming~~ whether or not the response is transmitted from the receipt address.

7. (currently amended) An E-mail management system according to claim 1, wherein said ~~confirming~~confirmation unit~~includes~~ issues a command of sending test mails respectively to the receipt address and the forward destination address, and ~~confirms~~confirming responses to these two test mails.

8. (currently amended) An E-mail management system according to claim 4, ~~wherein said forward destination registering unit registers~~ the processor further programmed to

execute:

registering a forward destination address unconditionally in response to said setting request for setting the forward destination address that is within a predetermined range; and registers

registering a forward destination address with respect to which the confirmation-by-said confirming-unit proved successful in response to said setting request for setting the forward destination address that is beyond the predetermined range.

9. (currently amended) An E-mail management system according to claim 1, the processor further comprising programmed to execute a notifying-unit notifying that a permission of forwarding to the forward destination address with respect to which the confirmation proved unsuccessful, can not be given.

10. (currently amended) An E-mail management system according to claim 4, the processor further programmed to execute: wherein said confirming-unit confirms confirming a validity of the already-registered forward destination address after a predetermined period of time has elapsed since the registration thereof, and said forward control unit suspends suspending the forwarding to the already-registered forward destination address till the confirmation proves successful after the elapse of the predetermined period of time.

11. (currently amended) An E-mail management system according to claim 5, the processor further programmed to execute: wherein said communication-unit receives a request for confirming the already-registered forward destination address from said mail server, and said confirming-unit confirms confirming the validity of this already-registered forward destination address.

12. (currently amended) An E-mail management system according to claim 1, the processor further comprising programmed to execute: an information providing unit disclosing a step of the response to a test mail, to a user who is within a predetermined range; and wherein said confirming confirmation includes confirming unit confirms whether or not the response conforms with the response step.

13. (cancelled)

14. (currently amended) An E-mail management system cooperating with a mail server which registers a forward destination address corresponding to a receipt address of an E-mail and forwards ~~the~~ received E-mail addressed to this receipt address to the forward destination address, said system comprising a processor programmed to execute:

~~an accept unit~~ accepting a setting request of a forward destination address corresponding to a receipt address of ~~the~~an E-mail addressed to the receipt address and the E-mail being to be forwarded to the forward destination address; and

~~a command unit~~issuing to a mail server, a command of confirming a validity of the forward destination address to which the E-mail addressed to the receipt address is forwarded, wherein the confirming includes sending a test mail and making a validity of the forward destination address confirmed by a response to the test mail, to said mail server from the receipt address, by checking whether the response contains a predetermined data string or not.

15. (cancelled)

16. (currently amended) An E-mail management system according to claim 14, ~~further comprising a communication unit communicating with a sending device sending a test mail to the forward destination;~~

~~wherein said command unit commands said sending device to send the test mail to the forward destination address via said communication unit and has the validity of the forward destination address confirmed by a response to the test mail, to said mail server from the receipt address~~wherein in said confirming, a sending device is commanded to send a test mail to the forward destination address, and the validity of the forward destination address is confirmed by a response to the test mail, to said mail server from the receipt address.

17. (original) An E-mail management system according to claim 16, wherein said sending device is said mail server.

18. (currently amended) An E-mail management system according to claim 14, ~~wherein said command unit issues a command of sending test mails respectively to the receipt~~

~~address and the forward destination address, and makes said mail server confirm the validity of responses to these two test mails wherein in said confirming, sending test mails respectively to the receipt address and the forward destination address is commanded, and making said mail server confirm the validity of responses to these two test mails.~~

19. (currently amended) An E-mail management system according to claim 16, the processor further programmed to execute; ~~wherein said communication unit receives a request for confirming the~~ an already-registered forward destination address from said mail server, and

~~said command unit issues~~ issuing the command of confirming the validity of this already-registered forward destination address.

20. (currently amended) An E-mail management system according to claim 14, the processor further comprising programmed to execute; an information disclosure unit disclosing a step of the response to a test mail, to a user who is within a predetermined range.

21. (currently amended) An E-mail management system according to claim 1, wherein said ~~accept unit accepts~~ accepting includes the setting request by receiving the E-mail response in a predetermined format at a predetermined address.

22. (currently amended) An E-mail management system according to claim 14, wherein said ~~accept unit accepts~~ accepting includes the setting request by receiving the E-mail response in a predetermined format at a predetermined address.

23. (withdrawn) A mail server cooperating with an E-mail management system which accepts a request for setting a forward destination address corresponding to a receipt address of an E-mail, said mail server comprising:

a confirming unit executing a confirmation of a validity of the forward destination address; and

a forward destination registering unit registering the forward destination address corresponding to the receipt address of the E-mail,

wherein said forward destination registering unit registers the forward destination address with its validity confirmed.

24. (withdrawn) A mail server according to claim 23, further comprising a receiving unit receiving a response to a test mail sent to the forward destination,

wherein said confirming unit confirms the validity of the forward destination address by the response.

25. (withdrawn) A mail server according to claim 23, wherein said confirming unit confirms whether the response is transmitted from the receipt address or not.

26. (withdrawn) A mail server according to claim 23, wherein said confirming unit confirms whether the response contains a predetermined data string or not.

27. (currently amended) An E-mail forward destination management method of managing a forward destination of an E-mail, comprising:

accepting a setting request ~~for setting of~~ a forward destination address corresponding to a receipt address of an E-mail addressed to the receipt address and the E-mail being to be forwarded to the forward destination address; and

executing a confirmation of a validity of the forward destination address to which the E-mail addressed to the receipt address is forwarded, by sending a test mail to the forward destination address and receiving a response to the test mail.

wherein said confirmation includes confirming whether the response contains a predetermined data string or not.

28. (cancelled)

29. (currently amended) An E-mail forward destination management method according to claim 27, further comprising:

commanding a sending device ~~sending the E-mail~~ to send a test mail to the forward destination address; and

communicating with a receiving device ~~receiving~~ to receive a response to the test mail, wherein said confirmation includes confirming the validity of the forward destination address by the response received by said receiving device.

30. (currently amended) An E-mail forward destination management method according to claim 27, further comprising:

registering the forward destination address corresponding to the receipt address when the confirmation proved successful; and

forwarding ~~the~~ received E-mail addressed to the receipt address to the forward destination address when the forward destination address corresponding to the receipt address is registered.

31. (currently amended) An E-mail forward destination management method according to claim 27, further comprising ~~commanding communicating with~~ a mail server which registers the forward destination address corresponding to the receipt address of the E-mail, and forwards ~~the~~ received E-mail addressed to this receipt address to the forward destination address,

wherein said mail server is commanded to register the forward destination address if the confirmation proved successful.

32. (original) An E-mail forward destination management method according to claim 28, wherein said confirmation includes confirming whether or not the response is transmitted from the receipt address.

33. (currently amended) An E-mail forward destination management method according to claim 27, ~~further comprising~~ wherein said confirmation includes sending test mails respectively to the receipt address and the forward destination address,

~~wherein said confirmation includes~~ and confirming responses to these two test mails.

34. (currently amended) An E-mail forward destination management method according to claim 30, further comprising:

registering a forward destination address unconditionally in response to said setting request for setting the forward destination address that is within a predetermined range, and

~~wherein there is registered~~ registering a forward destination address with respect to which the confirmation proved successful in response to said setting request for setting the forward destination address that is beyond the predetermined range.

35. (original) An E-mail forward destination management method according to claim 27, further comprising notifying that a permission of forwarding to the forward destination address with respect to which the confirmation proved unsuccessful, can not be given.

36. (currently amended) An E-mail forward destination management method according to claim 30, further comprising executing a confirmation of a validity of the already-registered forward destination address after a predetermined period of time has elapsed since the registration thereof,

wherein said forwarding to the already-registered forward destination address is suspended till the confirmation proves successful after the elapse of the predetermined period of time.

37. (original) An E-mail forward destination management method according to claim 31, further comprising:

receiving a request for confirming the already-registered forward destination address;  
and  
confirming the validity of this already-registered forward destination address.

38. (original) An E-mail forward destination management method according to claim 27, further comprising disclosing a step of the response to a test mail, to a user who is within a predetermined range,

wherein said confirmation includes confirming whether or not the response conforms with the response step.

39. (cancelled)

40. (currently amended) An E-mail forward destination management method of managing a forward destination of an E-mail in cooperation with a mail server which registers a forward destination address corresponding to a receipt address of the E-mail and forwards ~~the~~a received E-mail addressed to this receipt address to the forward destination address, said method comprising:

accepting a setting request of a forward destination address corresponding to a receipt address of ~~the~~a E-mail addressed to the receipt address and the E-mail being to be forwarded



to the forward destination address; and

issuing to a mail server, a command of confirming a validity of the forward destination address to which the E-mail addressed to the receipt address is forwarded; and

sending a test mail to the forward destination,

wherein a validity of the forward destination address is confirmed by a response to the test mail, to said mail server from the receipt address, by checking whether the response contains a predetermined data string or not.

41. (cancelled)

42. (currently amended) An E-mail forward destination management method according to claim 40, wherein in said ~~issuing~~confirming, a sending device ~~sending the E-mail~~ is commanded to send a test mail to the forward destination address, and

the validity of the forward destination address is confirmed by a response to the test mail, to said mail server from the receipt address.

43. (original) An E-mail forward destination management method according to claim 42, wherein said sending device is said mail server.

44. (currently amended) An E-mail forward destination management method according to claim 40, wherein in said ~~issuing~~confirming, sending test mails respectively to the receipt address and the forward destination address is commanded, and making said mail server confirm the validity of responses to these two test mails.

45. (currently amended) An E-mail forward destination management method according to claim 40, further comprising:

receiving a request for confirming ~~the~~an already-registered forward destination address from said mail server; and

issuing ~~the~~a command of confirming the validity of this already-registered forward destination address.

46. (original) An E-mail forward destination management method according to claim 40, further comprising disclosing a step of the response to a test mail, to a user who is within a

predetermined range.

47. (currently amended) An E-mail forward destination management method according to claim 27, wherein said accepting includes receiving the ~~E-mail~~response in a predetermined format at a predetermined address.

48. (currently amended) An E-mail forward destination management method according to claim 40, wherein said accepting includes receiving the ~~E-mail~~response in a predetermined format at a predetermined address.

49. (withdrawn) An E-mail forward destination management method of managing a forward destination of an E-mail in cooperation with an E-mail management system which accepts a request for setting a forward destination address corresponding to a receipt address of the E-mail, said method comprising:

confirming a validity of the forward destination address;

registering the forward destination address; and

forwarding, when the forward destination address corresponding to an address of the E-mail received is registered, the E-mail to this forward destination address.

50. (withdrawn) An E-mail forward destination management method according to claim 49, further comprising receiving a response to a test mail sent to the forward destination, wherein said confirming includes confirming a validity of the forward destination address by the response.

51. (withdrawn) An E-mail forward destination management method according to claim 49, wherein said confirming includes confirming whether the response is transmitted from the receipt address or not.

52. (withdrawn) An E-mail forward destination management method according to claim 49, wherein said confirming includes confirming whether the response contains a predetermined data string or not.

53. (currently amended) A readable-by-computer recording medium tangibly

embodying a program of computer-readable instructions executable by a processor to perform operations to manage a forward destination of an E-mail addressed to the receipt address and the E-mail being to be forwarded to the forward destination address, said operations comprising:

- accepting a setting request ~~for setting~~ of a forward destination address corresponding to a receipt address of an E-mail; and
- executing a confirmation of a validity of the forward destination address to which the E-mail addressed to the receipt address is forwarded, by sending a test mail to the forward destination address; and
- receiving a response to the test mail,
- wherein said confirmation includes confirming whether the response contains a predetermined data string or not.

54. (cancelled)

55. (currently amended) A readable-by-computer recording medium of claim 53, wherein the operations further include:

- commanding a sending device ~~sending the E-mail~~ to send a test mail to the forward destination address, and
- communicating with a receiving device ~~receiving~~ to receive a response to the test mail, wherein said confirmation includes confirming the validity of the forward destination address by the response received by said receiving device.

56. (currently amended) A readable-by-computer recording medium of claim 53, wherein the operations further include:

- registering the forward destination address corresponding to the receipt address when the confirmation proved successful; and
- forwarding ~~the~~ received E-mail addressed to the receipt address to the forward destination address when the forward destination address corresponding to the receipt address is registered.

57. (currently amended) A readable-by-computer recording medium of claim 53, wherein the operations further include commanding a mail server which registers the forward destination address corresponding to the receipt address of the E-mail, and forwards ~~the~~ a

received E-mail addressed to this receipt address to the forward destination address,  
wherein said mail server is commanded to register the forward destination address if the confirmation proved successful.

58. (previously presented) A readable-by-computer recording medium of claim 54, wherein said confirmation includes confirming whether or not the response is transmitted from the receipt address.

59. (currently amended) A readable-by-computer recording medium of claim 53, wherein ~~the operations further include~~said confirmation includes sending test mails respectively to the receipt address and the forward destination address, and  
~~wherein said confirmation includes~~ confirming responses to these two test mails.

60. (currently amended) A readable-by-computer recording medium of claim 56, wherein the operations further include:  
registering a forward destination address unconditionally in response to said setting request for setting the forward destination address that is within a predetermined range, and  
~~wherein there is registered~~registering a forward destination address with respect to which the confirmation proved successful in response to said setting request for setting the forward destination address that is beyond the predetermined range.

61. (previously presented) A readable-by-computer recording medium of claim 53, wherein the operations further include notifying that a permission of forwarding to the forward destination address with respect to which the confirmation proved unsuccessful, can not be given.

62. (currently amended) A readable-by-computer recording medium of claim 56, wherein the operations further include executing a confirmation of a validity of the already-registered forward destination address after a predetermined period of time has elapsed since the registration thereof,  
wherein said forwarding to the already-registered forward destination address is suspended till the confirmation proves successful after the elapse of the predetermined period of time.

63. (previously presented) A readable-by-computer recording medium of claim 57, wherein the operations further include:

receiving a request for confirming the already-registered forward destination address;  
and  
confirming the validity of this already-registered forward destination address.

64. (previously presented) A readable-by-computer recording medium of claim 53, wherein the operations further include disclosing a step of the response to a test mail, to a user who is within a predetermined range,

wherein said confirmation includes confirming whether or not the response conforms with the response step.

65. (cancelled)

66. (currently amended) A readable-by-computer recording medium tangibly embodying a program of computer-readable instructions executable by a processor to perform operations to manage a forward destination of an E-mail in cooperation with a mail server which registers a forward destination address corresponding to a receipt address of the E-mail and forwards ~~the~~ received E-mail addressed to this receipt address to the forward destination address, said operations comprising:

accepting a setting request of a forward destination address corresponding to a receipt address of ~~the~~an E-mail addressed to the receipt address and the E-mail being to be forwarded to the forward destination address; ~~and~~

issuing to a mail server, a command of confirming a validity of the forward destination address to which the E-mail addressed to the receipt address is forwarded; ~~and~~  
sending a test mail to the forward destination.

wherein a validity of the forward destination address is confirmed by a response to the test mail, to said mail server from the receipt address, by checking whether the response contains a predetermined data string or not.

67. (cancelled)

68. (currently amended) A readable-by-computer recording medium of claim 66, wherein in said ~~issuing~~confirming, a sending device~~sending the E-mail~~ is commanded to send a test mail to the forward destination address, and

the validity of the forward destination address is confirmed by a response to the test mail, to said mail server from the receipt address.

69. (previously presented) A readable-by-computer recording medium of claim 68, wherein said sending device is said mail server.

70. (currently amended) A readable-by-computer recording medium of claim 66, wherein in said ~~issuing~~confirming, sending test mails respectively to the receipt address and the forward destination address is commanded, and making said mail server confirm the validity of responses to these two test mails.

71. (currently amended) A readable-by-computer recording medium of claim 66, further comprising:

receiving a request for confirming ~~the~~an already-registered forward destination address from said mail server; and

issuing ~~the~~a command of confirming the validity of this already-registered forward destination address.

72. (previously presented) A readable-by-computer recording medium of claim 66, further comprising disclosing a step of the response to a test mail, to a user who is within a predetermined range.

73. (currently amended) A readable-by-computer recording medium of claim 53, wherein said accepting includes receiving the ~~E-mail~~response in a predetermined format at a predetermined address.

74. (currently amended) A readable-by-computer recording medium of claim 66, wherein said accepting includes receiving the ~~E-mail~~response in a predetermined format at a predetermined address.

75. (withdrawn) A readable-by-computer recording medium recorded with a program making a computer manage a forward destination of an E-mail in cooperation with an E-mail management system which accepts a request for setting a forward destination address corresponding to a receipt address of the E-mail, said program comprising:

confirming a validity of the forward destination address;

registering the forward destination address; and

forwarding, when the forward destination address corresponding to an address of the E-mail received is registered, the E-mail to this forward destination address.

76. (withdrawn) A readable-by-computer recording medium recorded with a program according to claim 75, further comprising receiving a response to a test mail sent to the forward destination,

wherein said confirming includes confirming a validity of the forward destination address by the response.

77. (withdrawn) A readable-by-computer recording medium recorded with a program according to claim 75, wherein said confirming includes confirming whether the response is transmitted from the receipt address or not.

78. (withdrawn) A readable-by-computer recording medium recorded with a program according to claim 75, wherein said confirming includes confirming whether the response contains a predetermined data string or not.

79-100. (cancelled)

101. (withdrawn) A computer data signal embodied in a carrier wave and encoding a program making a computer manage a forward destination of an E-mail in cooperation with an E-mail management system which accepts a request for setting a forward destination address corresponding to a receipt address of the E-mail, said program comprising:

confirming a validity of the forward destination address;

registering the forward destination address; and

forwarding, when the forward destination address corresponding to an address of the E-mail received is registered, the E-mail to this forward destination address.

102. (withdrawn) A computer data signal embodied in a carrier wave and encoding a program according to claim 101, further comprising receiving a response to a test mail sent to the forward destination,

wherein said confirming includes confirming a validity of the forward destination address by the response.

103. (withdrawn) computer data signal embodied in a carrier wave and encoding a program according to claim 101, wherein said confirming includes confirming whether the response is transmitted from the receipt address or not.

104. (withdrawn) A computer data signal embodied in a carrier wave and encoding a program according to claim 101, wherein said confirming includes confirming whether the response contains a predetermined data string or not.